Please have your sound on for this chapter

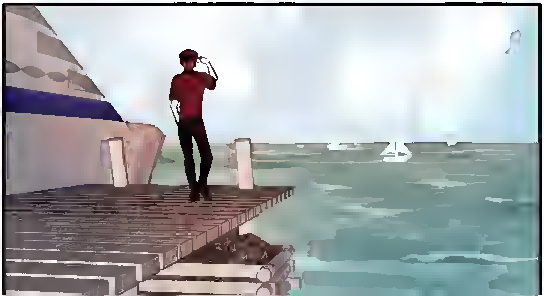
GOOD AFTERNOON, DID YOU HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TRIP?

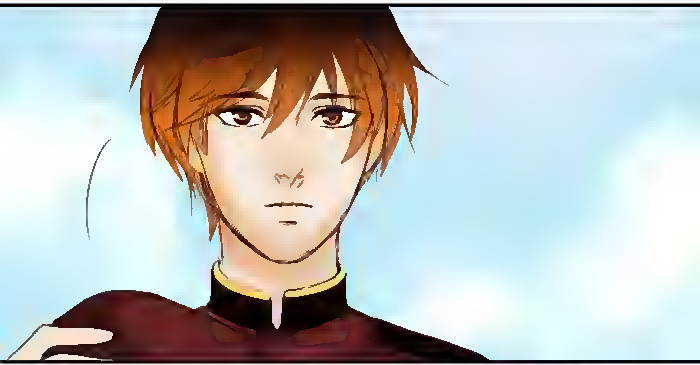
MAY I TAKE YOUR BAGS FOR YOU?

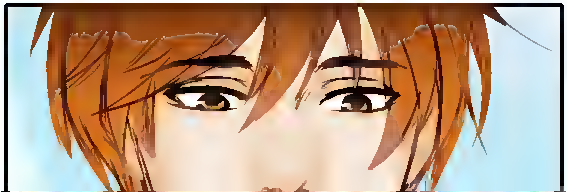
CAN YOU TAKE ME INSTEAD?
I'M SORRY, I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BAGS AND LUGGAGES ONLY, MA'AM.

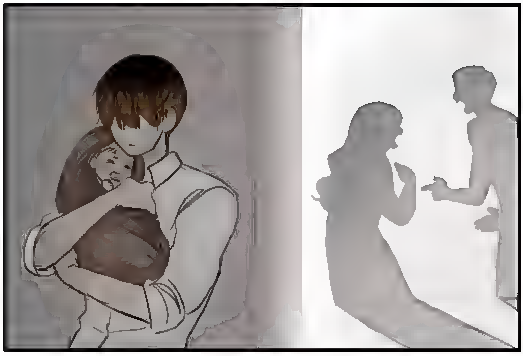
Gosh! If I were fifteen years younger, I'd be all over that pretty boy~
Hey~ Remember me? Your husband!
.....

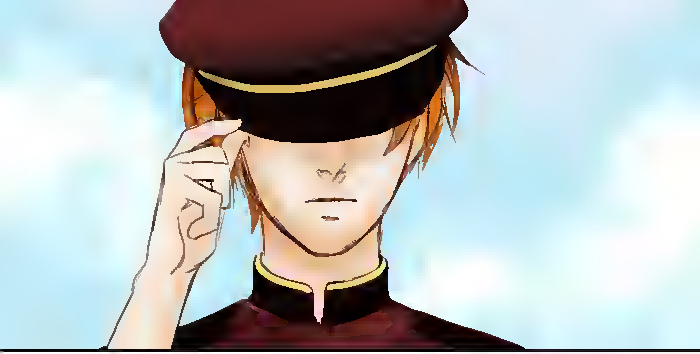
gleam









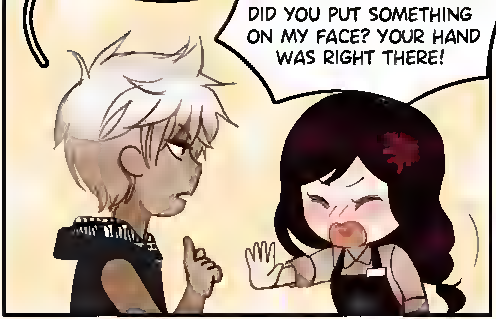


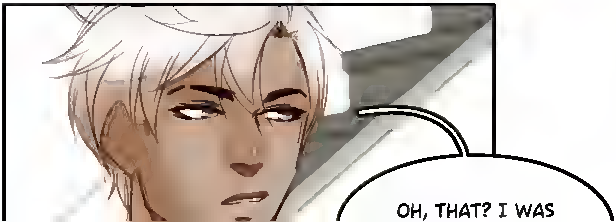
EPISODE 11: WITHDRAWAL

OH, YOU'RE UP.

DROP
ACK!

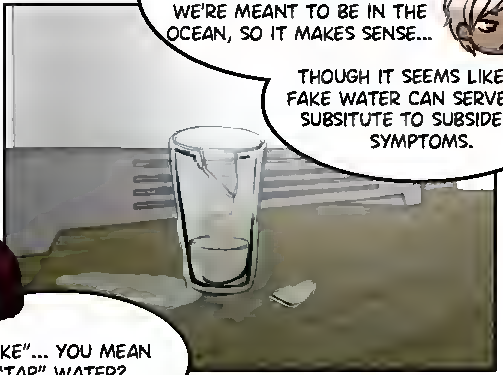
WHAT... WAS THAT JUST NOW?
LYRA
WELL, FIRST YOU FAINTED AND DROPPED A CUP. AND THEN YOU WERE SAYING "SHON-" ALOUD WHILE -
NOT THAT! I MEANT

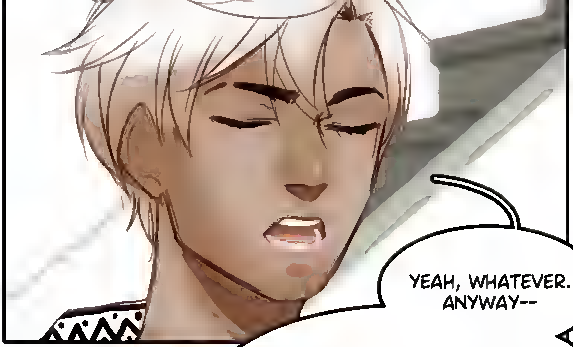

DID YOU PUT SOMETHING ON MY FACE? YOUR HAND WAS RIGHT THERE!

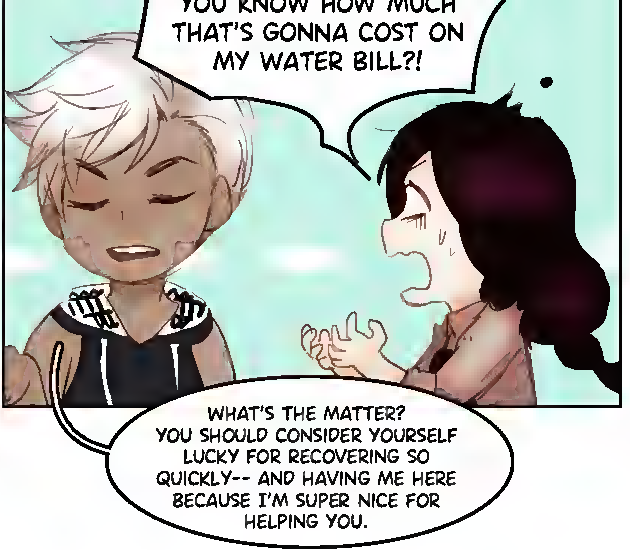

OH, THAT? I WAS

JUST DABBING WATER ON YOUR FOREHEAD.
SEEMS LIKE THE WATER WITHDRAWALS FINALLY GOT TO YOU.

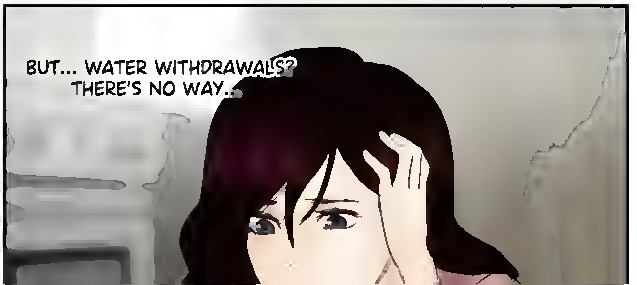
WATER... WITHDRAWALS?

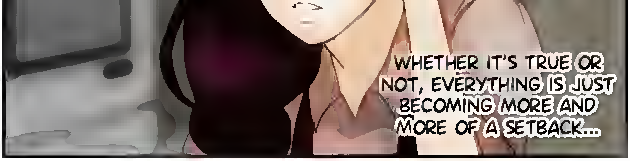

YEAH, IT'S A SIDE EFFECT SIREN'S GET WHEN THEY STAY ON SHORE FOR TOO LONG. WE'RE MEANT TO BE IN THE OCEAN, SO IT MAKES SENSE...
THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE THE FAKE WATER CAN SERVE AS A SUBSITUTE TO SUBSIDE THE SYMPTOMS.
"FAKE"... YOU MEAN "TAP" WATER?


YEAH, WHATEVER. ANYWAY--
I ALSO STARTED FEELING WITHDRAWALS LAST NIGHT, SO I STUCK MY HEAD UNDER THE SINK FAUCET. IT WENT AWAY AFTER ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES.
YOU DID WHAT?! DO


YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THAT'S GONNA COST ON MY WATER BILL?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY FOR RECOVERING SO QUICKLY-- AND HAVING ME HERE BECAUSE I'M SUPER NICE FOR HELPING YOU.

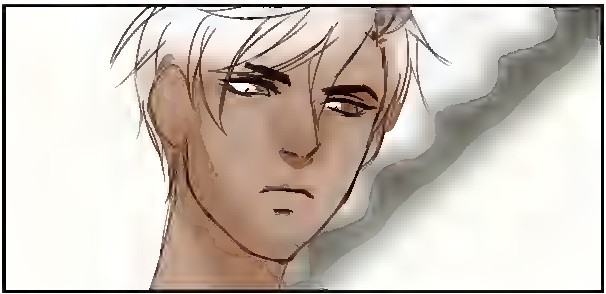
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...!

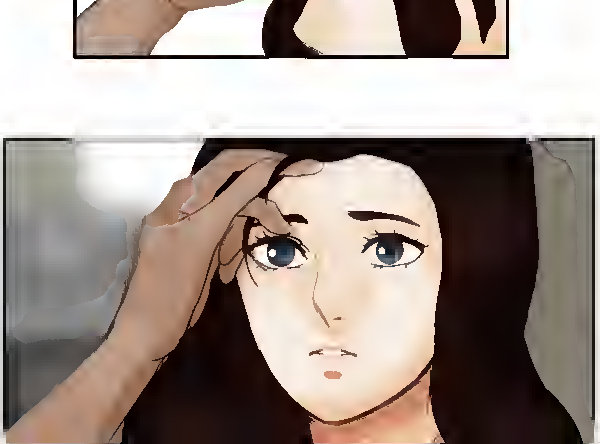


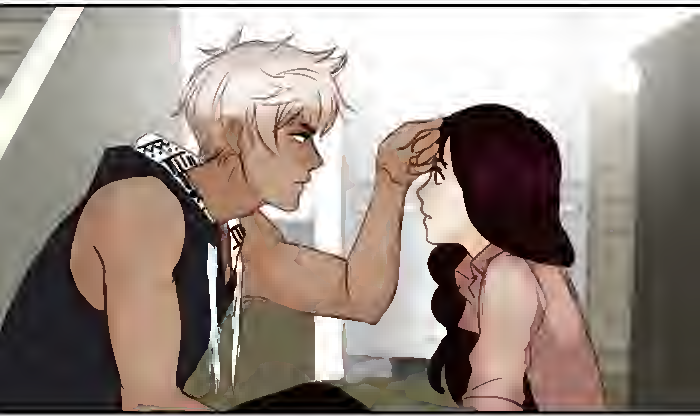


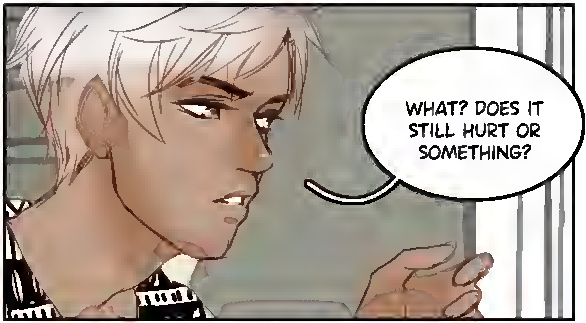
WHAT IF... SOONER OR LATER, I WON'T HAVE CONTROL OVER ANY OF THIS?

GRANNY, WHAT SHOULD
I DO...?

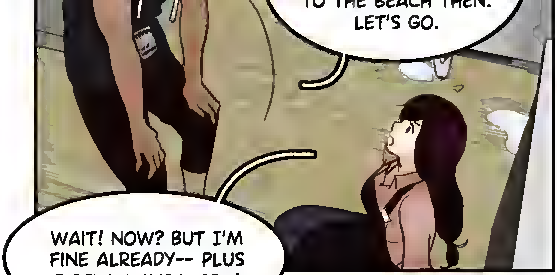




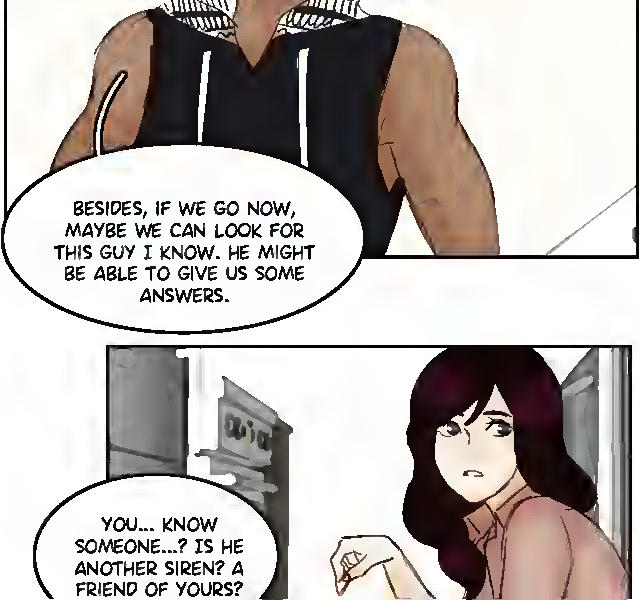


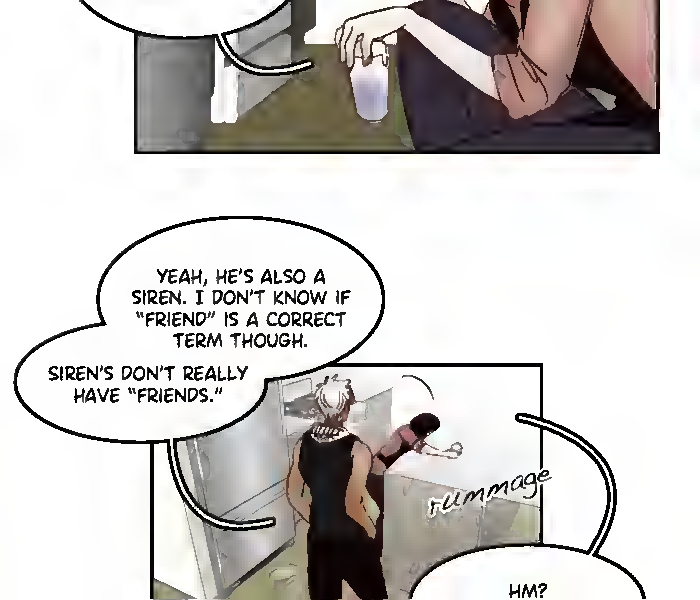

WHAT? DOES IT STILL HURT OR SOMETHING?

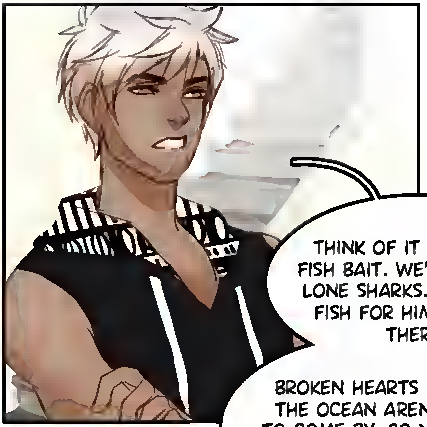
THAT SURPRISED ME...

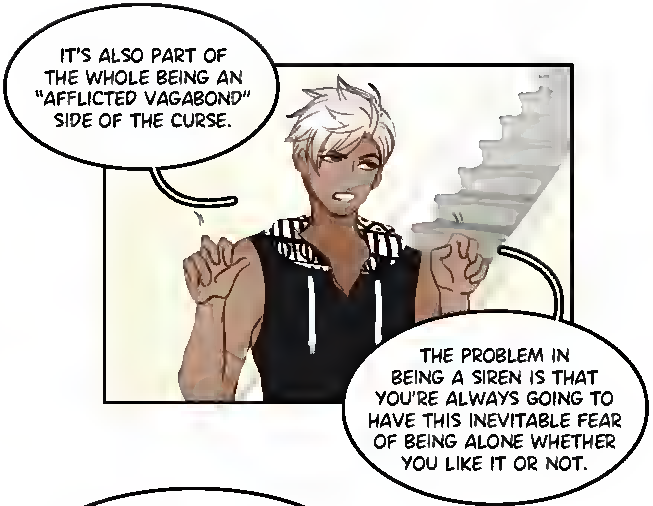

TO THE BEACH THEN. LET'S GO.
WAIT! NOW? BUT I'M FINE ALREADY-- PLUS I STILL HAVE WORK!

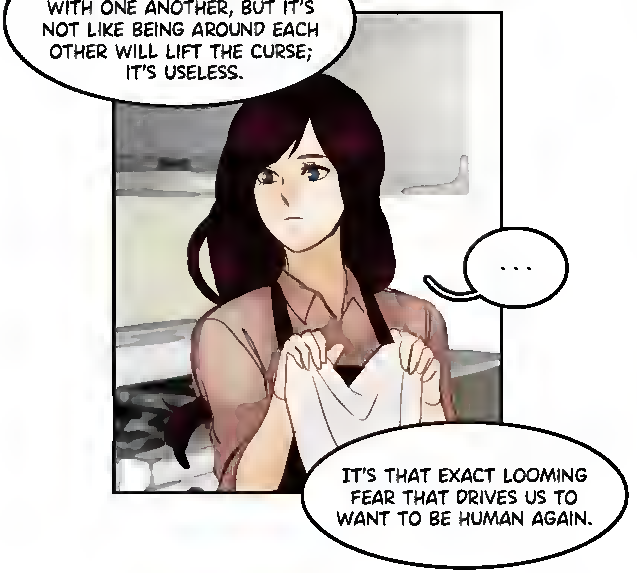
THERE'S STILL A POSSIBILITY OF YOU PASSING OUT AT ANYTIME...


BESIDES, IF WE GO NOW, MAYBE WE CAN LOOK FOR THIS GUY I KNOW. HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOME ANSWERS.
YOU... KNOW SOMEONE...? IS HE ANOTHER SIREN? A FRIEND OF YOURS?

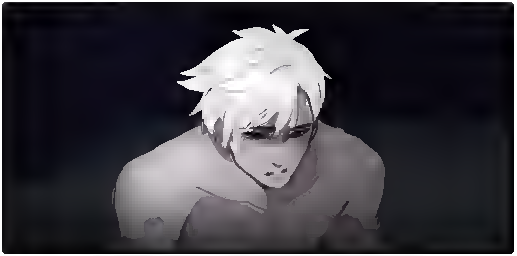

YEAH, HE'S ALSO A SIREN. I DON'T KNOW IF "FRIEND" IS A CORRECT TERM THOUGH.
SIREN'S DON'T REALLY HAVE "FRIENDS."
rummage
HM?


WELL, WHY NOT?
THINK OF IT THIS WAY, FISH BAIT. WE'RE ALL LIKE LONE SHARKS. IT'S EVERY FISH FOR HIMSELF OUT THERE.
BROKEN HEARTS AROUND THE OCEAN AREN'T EASY TO COME BY, SO NO ONE IS NECESSARILY TOO CHUMMY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

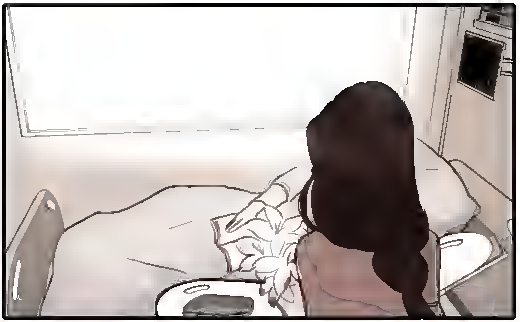

IT'S ALSO PART OF THE WHOLE BEING AN "AFFLICTED VAGABOND" SIDE OF THE CURSE.
THE PROBLEM IN BEING A SIREN IS THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE THIS INEVITABLE FEAR OF BEING ALONE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
SIRENS CAN COMMUNICATE


WITH ONE ANOTHER, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE BEING AROUND EACH OTHER WILL LIFT THE CURSE; IT'S USELESS.
...
IT'S THAT EXACT LOOMING FEAR THAT DRIVES US TO WANT TO BE HUMAN AGAIN.

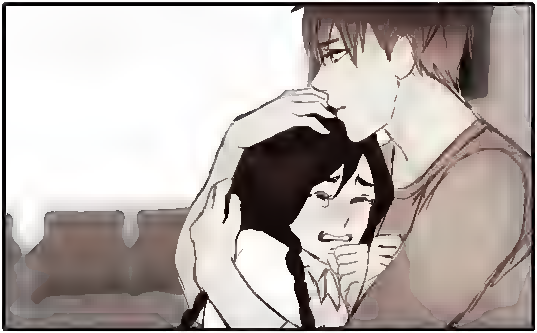
A CONSTANT FEAR OF BEING ALONE...?



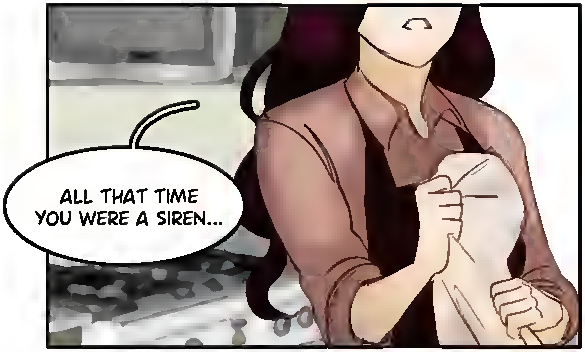
I GUESS I COULD RELATE

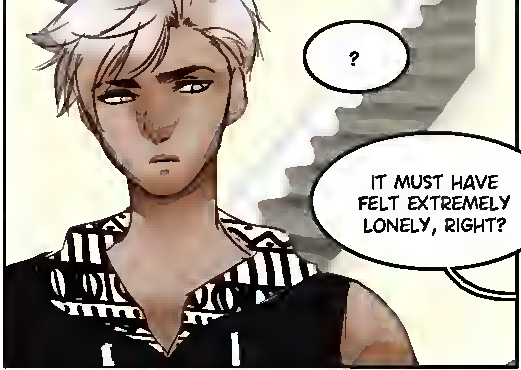


TO SOME EXTENT...



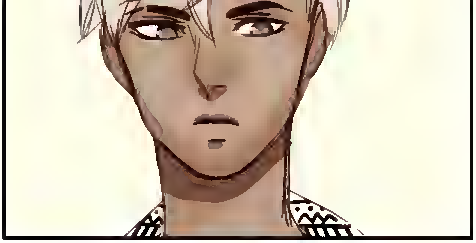
THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT I'VE
ALWAYS HAD SOMEONE THERE FOR ME...
SO I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE
WHAT IT MAY BE LIKE...

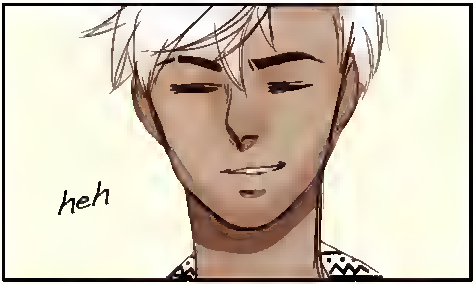

ALL THAT TIME
YOU WERE A SIREN...

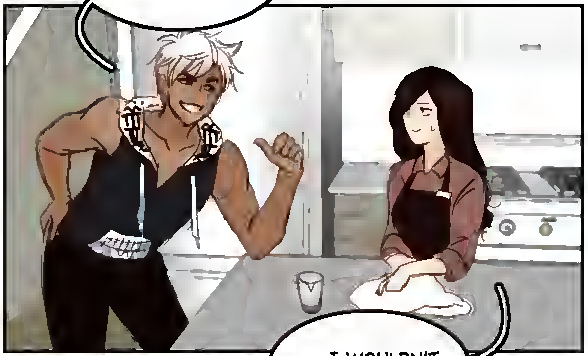


THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO BECOME A FULL HUMAN AGAIN, ISN'T IT?

BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID OF BEING ALONE?




heh

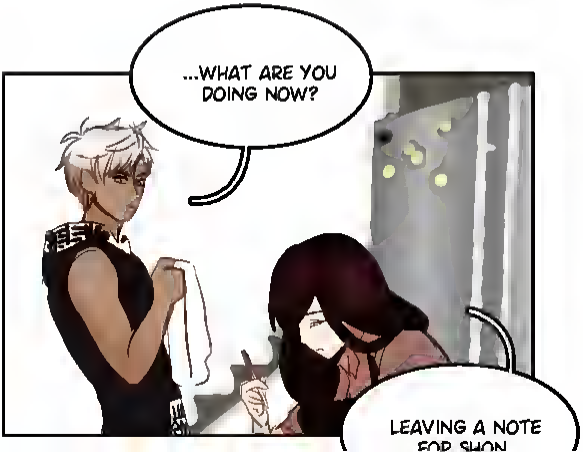

HONEY, PLEASE. WITH A FACE LIKE THIS? I CAN'T KEEP ANYONE AWAY.
... I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT.

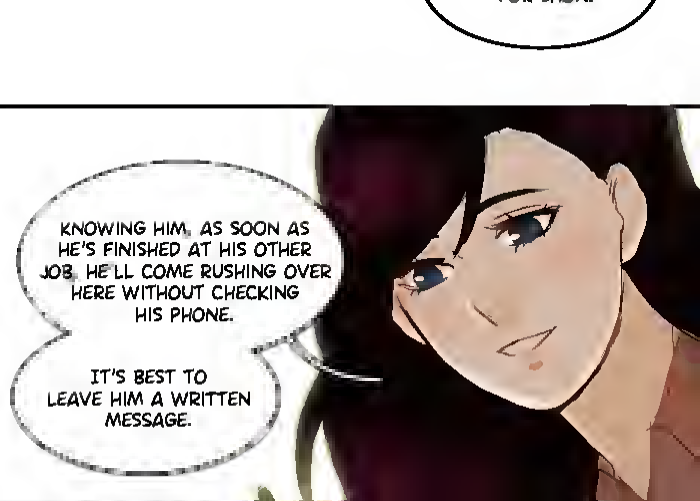
ALRIGHT. I'LL CLOSE THE SHOP EARLY TODAY, BUT IF WE GO, THERE ARE SOME RULES I'LL HAVE TO LAY DOWN.
RULES?
YOU CAN'T TRY KISSING OR TRICKING ME INTO MAKING A DEAL WITH YOU AGAIN.

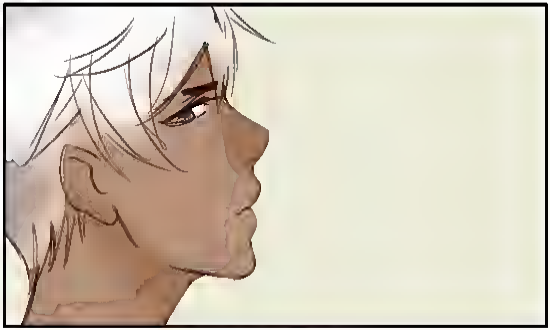
IF I FEEL THE SLIGHTEST SUSPICION, I'M HEADING BACK WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.

OHO~
PLAYING HARD
TO GET, I SEE.

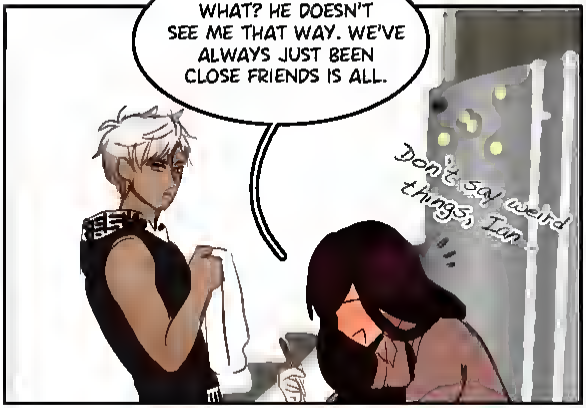
SMACK
JOKING.
JUST JOKING.

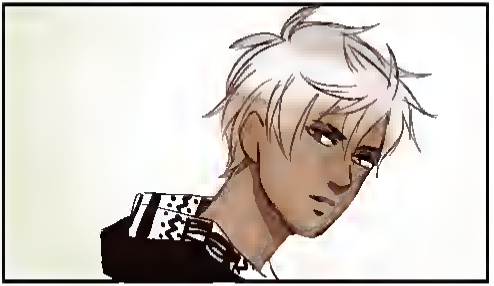

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
LEAVING A NOTE FOR SHON


KNOWING HIM, AS SOON AS HE'S FINISHED AT HIS OTHER JOB, HE'LL COME RUSHING OVER HERE WITHOUT CHECKING HIS PHONE.
IT'S BEST TO LEAVE HIM A WRITTEN MESSAGE.



HE SEEMS TO BE INTO YOU. WHY IS HE DATING THAT ONE CHICK? ... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND HIM?


WHAT? HE DOESN'T SEE ME THAT WAY. WE'VE ALWAYS JUST BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS IS ALL.
Don't say weird things, Ian.



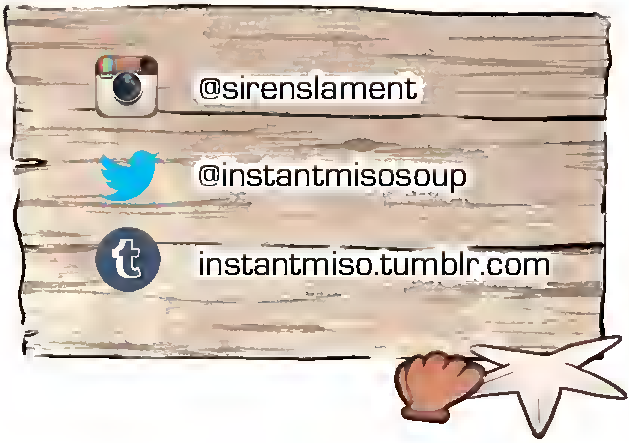
OR SO THAT'S WHAT
YOU'VE FOOLED YOURSELF

INTO BELIEVING...

Siren's Lament

instantmiso

HI, LOVES! HOPE EVERYONE IS DOING WELL~
I'M CURRENTLY SWAMPED WITH SCHOOLWORK AND FINALS, SO I WANTED TO WISH ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS FINALS GOOD LUCK AS WELL!
We can do it!
miso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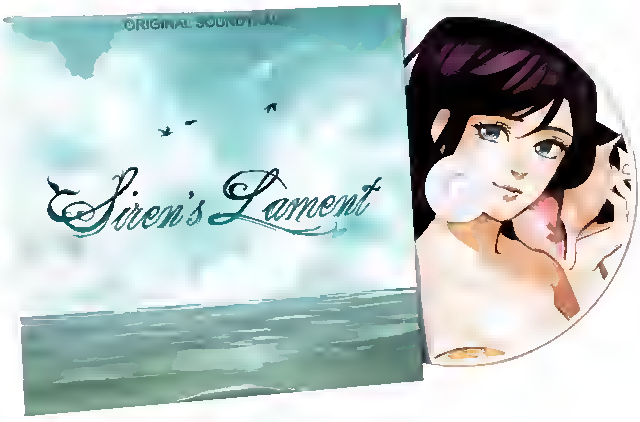
@instantmisosoup
instantmiso.tumblr.com



NAME OF THE SONG·

TRACK 12
<Keeping afloat>

Background music by

@KennyComics